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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/726,727

Applicant(s)

MATZ, WILLIAM RANDOLPH

Examiner

JUN FEI ZHONG

Art Unit

2426

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-18, 20 and 22-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-18, 20 and 22-31 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/2/2009 has been entered.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20, 22-31 are pending.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20, 22-31 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There are not detail descriptions of "*wherein each content has a respective tag associated therewith and wherein each tag comprises content type information, content title information, viewer age information, viewer gender information, viewer income information, viewer location information, and content rating information*". Those

limitations appear in the incorporated references, but not in the instant application. The examiner suggests amending the specification with the claimed limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 18, 20, 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al. (Patent # US 6486920 B2) in view of Marsh (Pub # US 2003/0195863), in view of Wood et al. (Pub # US 2005/0047752), further in view of Kaltz (Pub # US 2003/0159145).

As to claim 18, Arai discloses a method of displaying a programming guide of channel content in a distributed network having a client device (e.g., receiver 100; Fig. 73) and a server device (e.g., center system 1000; Fig. 73), the method comprising:

receiving content tag information prior to receiving associated content (e.g., program information) (see col. 8, lines 15-24);

evaluating tag information, wherein evaluating tag information comprises implementing a user profile comprising a stored profile of preferences, wherein the stored profile of preferences comprises user selected criteria (e.g., searching program

information matched search condition, such as program fee less than 100 yen) (see col. 8, lines 45-65; col. 9, line 55-col. 10, line 32; Fig. 1 and 3);

displaying a personalized programming guide at the client device, wherein the personalized programming guide displays a preferred subset of available content, wherein the preferred subset is based on the user profile, wherein the personalized programming guide displays at least one personalized channel having content from two or more predetermined channels, (e.g., searching program information matched search condition selected by user and display in "My Channel") (see col. 9, lines 17-35; Fig. 4, 6).

Arai does not specifically disclose the program information comprises content type, content title, viewer age information, viewer gender information, viewer income information, viewer location information, and content rating information;

Marsh discloses wherein the content tag information comprises content type, content title, viewer age information, viewer gender information, viewer income information, viewer location information, and content rating information (e.g., metadata includes content type, title and rating information, also includes viewer age, gender, income, and location information) (see paragraph 0080, 0193, 0227-0232, 0525, 1271)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content metadata as taught by Marsh to the personal channel system of Arai to provide a user to make decisions about which programs to view based on descriptive data associated with programs beyond the short descriptions typically displayed in an EPG (see paragraph 0003).

Arai does not specifically disclose the user selected search condition including content rating.

Wood discloses user selected criteria comprising at least one content rating to exclude; wherein the personalized channel excludes content based on the at least one content rating in the user profile (e.g., parental control or quality ratings) (see paragraph 0042);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content rating as taught by Wood to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh to provide a personalized channel that a user could enter different search criteria.

Arai and Wood do not specifically disclose identifying content preferences in user-assigned order.

Kaltz discloses identifying content preferences in user-assigned order (e.g., user creates a priority list; Fig. 4), wherein conflict is resolved when content from the two or more predetermined channels match the user profile and occur at the same time by selecting content from one of the two or more predetermined channels that matches a highest order preference in the user profile (e.g., using a tie-breaker attribute to chose content when more then one content matches; Fig. 9) (see paragraph 0014, 0024-0026, 0034-0036)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide preferences in user-assigned order as taught by Kaltz to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh and Wood when

there are more than one content matches user's profile, the system can provide user with the best match content based on the ranking to satisfy user's need.

As to claim 25, Arai discloses a system for displaying personalized channel information comprising:

a receive module (e.g., receiving section 1; Fig. 1) that receives tag information, wherein the tag information is associated with content that may be viewed by a user of the system;

an analysis module (e.g., search section 4; Fig. 1) that analyzes the tag information contained within the plurality of fields and modifies the display of the tag information (e.g., generating a "my channel" list), the analysis module being configured to implementing a user profile comprising user selected criteria (see col. 8, lines 45-65; col. 9, line 55-col. 10, line 32);

a display module (e.g., program guide display section 6) for displaying the modified tag information (see col. 9, lines 17-35; Fig. 4).

a profile interface module (e.g., search condition input section 3; Fig. 1) that accesses the user profile (e.g., user entered search criteria) and provides tag information to the analysis module (e.g., search section 4; Fig. 1), the analysis module using the profile tag information in selecting content to add to the personalized channel from two or more predetermined channels (e.g., searching program information matched search condition to create "my channel") (see col. 8, lines 50-65; col. 9, lines 17-35; col. 10, lines 6-32; Fig. 1, 3, 4);

Arai does not specifically disclose the program information is included within a plurality of fields including a content type field, a content title field, a viewer age field, a viewer gender field, a viewer income field, a viewer location field, and a content rating field;

Marsh discloses wherein the tag information is included within a plurality of fields including a content type field, a content title field, a viewer age field, a viewer gender field, a viewer income field, a viewer location field, and a content rating field (e.g., metadata includes content type, title and rating information, also includes viewer age, gender, income, and location information) (see paragraph 0080, 0193, 0227-0232, 0525, 1271)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content metadata as taught by Marsh to the personal channel system of Arai to provide a user to make decisions about which programs to view based on descriptive data associated with programs beyond the short descriptions typically displayed in an EPG (see paragraph 0003).

Wood discloses user selected criteria comprising at least one content rating to exclude (e.g., parental control or quality ratings) (see paragraph 0042);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content rating as taught by Wood to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh to provide a personalized channel that a user could enter different search criteria.

Kaltz discloses identifying content preferences in user-assigned order (e.g., user crates a priority list; Fig. 4), wherein conflict is resolved when content from the two or more predetermined channels match the user profile and occur at the same time by selecting content from one of the two or more predetermined channels that matches a highest order preference in the user profile (e.g., using a tie-breaker attribute to chose content when more then one content matches; Fig. 9) (see paragraph 0014, 0024-0026, 0034-0036)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide preferences in user-assigned order as taught by Kaltz to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh and Wood when there are more then one content matches user's profile, the system can provide user with the best match content based on the ranking to satisfy user's need.

As to claim 20, Arai discloses a the method of claim 18, wherein the personalized programming guide blocks content tags associated with content to be excluded, as identified in the user profile (e.g., only program information matched search condition in the search result; i.e., blocking not matched information) (see col. 8, lines 45-65; Fig. 1 and 3).

As to claim 22, Arai discloses the method of claim 21 wherein the programming guide scrolls through the predetermined channels, wherein the method further

comprises: continuously displaying the at least one personalized channels (Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to continuously displaying the personalized channels in a program guide in order to provide a program guide that always showing content matches user's profile and minimize the work for a user to searching a preferred program).

As to claim 23, it contains the limitations of claim 18 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 18 above.

As to claim 24, it contains the limitations of claim 22 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 22 above.

As to claim 26, Arai discloses the system of claim 25, wherein the modified tag information (e.g., generating a "my channel" list) displayed is an abbreviated programming guide (see col. 9, lines 17-35; Fig. 4).

As to claim 27, Arai discloses the system of claim 26, wherein the abbreviated programming guide displays personalized channel data (e.g., my channel data) (see col. 9, lines 17-35; Fig. 4).

As to claim 28, Arai discloses the system of claim 27 further comprising:

a user input/output module (e.g., remote controller 9) that receives personalized channel content selections to be added to the personalized channel, wherein the analysis module adds the selected content to the personalized channel (e.g., user selecting a program add to personal channel) (see col. 10, lines 35-42).

As to claim 29, Arai discloses the system of in claim 27 further comprising:

a profile interface module (e.g., search condition input section 3) that accesses the user profile and provides tag information to the analysis module (e.g., search section 4; Fig. 1), the analysis module uses the profile tag information in selecting content to add to the personalized channel (see col. 8, lines 50-65; col. 10, lines 6-11).

As to claim 30, Arai discloses the system of claim 25, wherein the modified tag information (e.g., generating a "my channel" list) comprises a personalized channel of content (see col. 8, lines 45-65).

As to claim 31, it contains the limitations of claim 28 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 28 above.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai in view of Marsh (Pub # US 2003/0195863), in view of Wood et al. (Pub # US 2005/0047752), further in view of Labeeb et al. (Pub # US 2003/0093792 A1), and further in view of Kaltz (Pub # US 2003/0159145).

As to claim 1, Arai discloses a method of presenting channel content in a distributed network having a client device (e.g., receiver 100; Fig. 73) and a server device (e.g., center system 1000; Fig. 73), the method comprising:

evaluating tagged content (e.g., searching program information matched search condition) (see col. 8, lines 50-65; Fig. 1 and 3);

creating a personalized channel at the client device, wherein the personalized channel comprises content from two or more predetermined channels (e.g., user enter search condition to create "my channel") (see col. 9, lines 17-35; col. 10, lines 6-32; Fig. 4);

displaying the content on the personalized channel (see col. 9, lines 17-35; Fig. 4).

Arai does not specifically disclose wherein each content has a respective tag associated therewith and wherein each tag comprises content type information, content title information, viewer age information, viewer gender information, viewer income information, viewer location information, and content rating information;

Marsh discloses wherein each content has a respective tag associated therewith and wherein each tag comprises content type information, content title information, viewer age information, viewer gender information, viewer income information, viewer location information, and content rating information (e.g., metadata includes content type, title and rating information, also includes viewer age, gender, income, and location information) (see paragraph 0080, 0193, 0227-0232, 0525, 1271)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content metadata as taught by Marsh to the personal channel system of Arai to provide a user to make decisions about which programs to view based on descriptive data associated with programs beyond the short descriptions typically displayed in an EPG (see paragraph 0003).

Arai does not specifically disclose the user selected search condition including content rating.

Wood discloses a user profile comprising user selected criteria, wherein the user selected criteria comprises at least one content rating to exclude; wherein the personalized channel excludes content based on the at least one content rating in the user profile (e.g., parental control or quality ratings) (see paragraph 0042);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide content rating as taught by Wood to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh to provide a personalized channel that a user could enter different search criteria.

Arai and Wood do not specifically disclose the personal channel is created automatically through the user profile.

Labeeb discloses the personalized channel is automatically created through use of the profile, wherein the user profile comprising a stored data structure (e.g., database 116) (e.g., personal preference database generated by user's viewing habits) (see paragraph 0067, 0073, 0104-0106).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide automatically generated profile as taught by Labeeb to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Wood because it allows the viewer to select one of the plurality of received TV programs for viewing, and responding to the viewer selection by controlling the programming displayed to the viewer in accordance with the viewer selection and with previously determined viewing preferences of the viewer (see paragraph 0003).

Arai, Wood and Labeeb do not specifically disclose identifying content preferences in user-assigned order.

Kaltz discloses identifying content preferences in user-assigned order (e.g., user creates a priority list; Fig. 4), wherein conflict is resolved when content from the two or more predetermined channels match the user profile and occur at the same time by selecting content from one of the two or more predetermined channels that matches a highest order preference in the user profile (e.g., using a tie-breaker attribute to chose content when more then one content matches; Fig. 9) (see paragraph 0014, 0024-0026, 0034-0036)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide preferences in user-assigned order as taught by Kaltz to the personal channel system of Arai as modified by Marsh, Wood and Labeeb when there are more then one content matches user's profile, the system can provide user with the best match content based on the ranking to satisfy user's need.

As to claim 2, Arai discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the tagged content is received from the server device and wherein the method further comprises:

parsing the tagged content to evaluate the information contained within each tag (e.g., searching program information matched search condition) (see col. 8, lines 50-65; Fig. 1 and 3);

wherein the act of creating a personalized channel comprises repackaging content into the personalized channel (e.g., switching between channels to generate personal channel) (see col. 9, lines 35-45).

As to claim 3, Arai discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the tagged content is received from the server device and wherein the method further comprises:

parsing the tagged content to evaluate the information contained within each tag (e.g., searching program information matched search condition) (see col. 8, lines 50-65; Fig. 1 and 3);

wherein the act of creating a personalized channel comprises automatically redirecting selected content to the user (e.g., switching between channels to generate personal channel; it is done by the receiver) (see col. 9, lines 35-45).

As to claim 5, Labeeb discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the user profile further comprises exclusion information and wherein content is not added to the personalized channel when tag information associated with the content matches

exclusion information in the user profile (e.g., filtering out Ads that not be interesting to the viewer) (see paragraph 0067, 0073, 0104-0106, 3010).

As to claim 6, Labeeb discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the preference information comprises preferences as to the type of content and the rating of the content (see paragraph 0353).

As to claim 7, Labeeb disclose the method of claim 1 further comprising:
manually creating the user profile (e.g., viewer created profile) (see paragraph 0207).

As to claim 8, Labeeb discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising:
automatically creating the user profile based on historical information (e.g., personal preference database generated by user's viewing habits) (see paragraph 0067, 0073, 0104-0106).

As to claim 9, Labeeb discloses the method of claim 8 further comprising:
automatically updating the user profile based on updated historical information (e.g., personal preference database generated by user's viewing habits) (see paragraph 0067, 0073, 0104-0106, 0112, 0114).

As to claim 10, Labeeb discloses the method of in claim 1 wherein the personalized channel is manually created and updated (e.g., every time the viewer updates the profile it will change the personal channel settings) (see paragraph 0207).

As to claim 11, Arai discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising: creating a second personalized channel (e.g., my channel 2; Fig. 6), the second personalized channel comprising content from two or more predetermined channels, wherein second channel comprises at least some content not in the first personalized content (see col. 9, lines 55-67; Fig. 6).

As to claim 12, Labeeb discloses the method of claim 11 further comprising: accessing the first personalized channel using a first access code; and accessing the second personalized channel using a second access code, the second access code being different from the first access code (e.g., the personal channel is based on user's profile, each user has different profile, and each user has a password to login the system; i.e., user Bob has a password, user Susan has a password) (see page 145-146).

As to claims 14-15 and 17, they contain the limitations of claims 9-10,12 and are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 9-10, 12 above.

As to claims 13 and 16, they contain the limitations of claims 1 and 11 and are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 and 11 above.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-18, 20, 22-31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 20, 22-31 are rejected.
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Novak et al. (Patent # US 7103905 B2) is cited to teach personal channel.

Traw et al. (Pub # US 2003/0066090 A1) is cited to teach personalized channel.

Blas (Pub # US 2004/0216158) is cited to teach personal program guide.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUN FEI ZHONG whose telephone number is (571)270-1708. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hirl can be reached on 571-272-3685. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JFZ
8/7/2009

/Joseph P. Hirl/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426
August 13, 2009